

Immanuel Messenger

April 2026



Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church Mission:

We gather as people of Christ, serving with love, hope and faith.



Join us for **HOLY WEEK WORSHIP!**

IMMANUEL'S HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 29, Palm Sunday - 9:00 a.m. Worship with Palms

April 2, Maundy Thursday - 12:15 p.m. Worship

6:30 p.m. Worship with
the stripping of
the Altar

April 3, Good Friday - 12:15 & 6:30 p.m. Worship

April 5, Easter Sunday - 9:00 a.m. Worship

MANY THANKS to all who purchased Easter Lilies in memory, honor or celebration of others! **You are welcome to take your Easter lily home following worship on Easter Sunday!** Dedications will be shared in the Easter bulletin and the May Messenger. Thank you!

Alleluia!



Christ is risen!

*Worship
with us
from*
HOME

In addition to worship on Sundays at 9 a.m. & Weds., at 4 p.m., Phone in worship continues to be offered weekly. The phone broadcast is worship from the Sunday prior. Bulletins are emailed and mailed out. If you would like to receive these communications and are not, please contact the church office. Special thanks to Ronda Borgmann for editing and posting phone in worship weekly.

Worship with us on the phone, toll free at **1-888-975-5536**.

You can access the St. Paul livestream worship thru their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/StPaulSterling/>. You can access St. John's livestream

worship thru their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SterlingStJohns>.



Beloved people of Immanuel,
What a gift it has been to seek to orient ourselves to the God throughout Lent! Thank you for choosing to follow Christ through worship, service, prayer, Bible Study and giving! You matter! God is at work in and through you!

A blessed Easter and Easter season to you! Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia! May the abundance of God's love for you through Jesus Christ fill you to overflowing as you root yourself in God's presence, love and grace!

During Tri Church Lenten midweek worship we introduced the concept of a watchword—a word we bring forward for a time to ponder how God might be showing up in day to day living. Would you please join me in continuing to be on the lookout for God at work through compassion. Where do you see compassion exemplified? What glimpses of God at work are you encountering? Please be on the lookout with me and let me know where you encounter compassion this month! -Pastor Bree

pastorimmanuel@gmail.com, 360-989-4906

Church Council Installation was on March 22. Thanks to all who are serving! Council contact info is on p. 14.



Council Meeting Highlights on March 19, 2026

1. President Nick Dirks presented the Request for Proposal for the replacement of the front concrete steps. The RFP will be distributed soon and ask for bids to be received by April 13 if possible.
2. A monthly contract with Kyle Morgan for IT and AV Service was approved.
3. Council joins in honoring Immanuel's Altar Guild and Joyce Kereven's 65 years of service and Sam Hyland's send off.



Next meeting will be on April 16, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel.

Respectfully submitted, Ronda Borgmann, Council Secretary



ALL are welcome to join in Bible Study the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Immanuel. All gatherings will be down the stairs or elevator in the Luther Room. **On April 14 and April 28 at 6 p.m. we will continue our study of Genesis.** No previous Bible Study experience is needed! We have **MANY Bibles** on hand if you need one, you are welcome to it! God's Word has the capacity to shape and reshape our lives! Join us!

Through your amazing support and Immanuel Youth raised \$1,854 through bread and sub sales on March 1st! THANK YOU for supporting our young people! Thanks also for the 3 Thrivent Action Cards toward supplies!





April BIRTHDAYS

We thank God for all of you, and for all who have birthdays in April! We specifically honor members who are 80 years or older.

| | | | |
|-----------------|------|--------------------|------|
| Ruth Ann Metzen | 4/01 | Virgil Rhodes (95) | 4/12 |
| Nancy Strock | 4/20 | Dale Smith | 4/27 |
| Ronda Borgmann | 4/28 | Shirley Boyer | 4/28 |

Although we have no members married 50 years or more this month we praise God for all who were married this month!

If you don't see your name on this list or there is a correction to be made, please contact the church office at 815-625-3575.

Please join us for BBT in April! Breaking Bread Together or BBT is a time of sharing life, God's love and a meal together! **These are no host gatherings for all interested parties.** If you would like to participate in BBT and are in fiscal need, please speak with Pastor Bree privately. **Join us for BBT this month on Tuesday, April 14, at 11:30 a.m. at Benny's (2511 Locust St., Sterling) & on Tuesday, April 28, at 11:30 a.m. at Froggy's (215 W. 2nd St., RF).** Come and share life with God and each other at BBT!

Breaking Bread Together BBT



MEN'S GROUP

Menz Group for Tri Church will meet at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sterling **on Monday, April 6, at 6:00 p.m.** This opportunity is open to all men. A hearty welcome and invitation is extended! Please contact Gerald Foskitt at 815-499-6566 with questions.

Offering Envelopes

You will find two offering envelopes in your offering packet for Sunday, April 5. The red border envelope is designated for Easter and will be sent to the Northern Illinois Synod for benevolence. The other offering envelope is the regular offering and will be used for our expenses. Thank you.



Please remember our Members with a prayer, visit or card:

Gerry Trieloff

Morningside of Sterling
2705 Avenue E, Apt. 233
Sterling, IL 61081

Ruth Ann Metzen

Morningside of Sterling
2705 Avenue E, Rm. 107
Sterling, IL 61081

Shirley Downey

Resthave Care
408 Maple Ave, Rm. 134
Morrison, IL 61270

Vera Stutzke

Citadel
105 E. 23rd Street
Sterling, IL 61081

Virgil Rhodes

Allure of Walnut
308 S. 2nd Street
Walnut, IL 61376

Delores Kuhlemier

1011 6th Avenue
Rock Falls, Il 61071

Joyce Greenwalt

P.O. Box 144
Polo, IL 61064

Deb Gonzalez

812 W. 5th Street
Rock Falls, IL 61071

Kathryn Rowzee

2002 Riverdale Road
Rock Falls, IL 61071



Special THANKS to all who continue to remember our home bound through prayers, cards and visits! We are church together!

When being admitted to the hospital or nursing home, you are welcome to let the admitting clerk know that you are a member of Immanuel Lutheran, Rock Falls. **If you would like a visit or to be included in congregational prayers, please call the church office (815-625-3575).**

Please contact the church office if you have a prayer request for the congregational prayer list. **Prayer requests will remain on the list for a month and can be renewed as many times as needed.** Thank you!

**WORSHIP
at Parkway Ctr
& Morningside**

Immanuel is offering worship at two area Care Facilities monthly. In April we are worshipping at **9:30 a.m. at Parkway Center, (1801 Ave. G in Sterling) at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 8 and on Tuesday, April 12 at Morningside of Sterling (2705 Ave. E).** Thanks to Nancy Strock and Virginia Schumaker for their service making it possible! If you would like to assist with these opportunities please contact Pastor Bree. We are the church together!

Women ^{of the} ELCA

Immanuel hosts WELCA Tri Church Bible Study will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at Immanuel. Please bring your Bible and “Gather” magazine. All women are members of WELCA and welcome to join WELCA for a time of fellowship and Bible Study! All are welcome!

You are welcome at a **WELCA Tri Church Evening Gather Bible Study at St. John’s** that meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at St. John’s at 6 p.m. Coordinator Karen Wolfe. First meeting is Tuesday, April 7, 2026. All are welcome!

WELCA Tri Church is offering Church Ladies Eating Out (CLEO) that meets the 4th Monday of each month at different area restaurants at 5:30 p.m. Coordinator Judy Bartel. Next meeting is Monday, April 27, 2026 at TBD. Please RSVP to Judy Bartel at 815-751-6768 to attend.

WELCA Tri Church is forming new groups all the time. Gabby Law is working on a mom’s group. Several areas of interest that need coordinators to help them get off the ground: Book Club, Women’s Faith Events, Service Events, Fundraising Events, and more! If you feel called to lead or help organize a new group, please let us know. You can also join a group that is already formed as well.

In Grace and Service, *WELCA Tri Church Leadership Team—Chrissy Zollinger, Dawn Zeigler, Karen Wolfe, Emily Taylor, Ronda Borgmann, and Deb Keaschall*

Please follow our Facebook page: WELCA Tri-Church



Mark your calendar for Tuesday, June 16th at 5:30 p.m. for a special event for ALL women of Immanuel, St. John’s and St. Paul. The evening will include a light meal and *Color Me Joyful* craft activity. Watch for more details in the May newsletter.

Thanks be to God for Theresa Johnson and Kim Neisewander who joined Immanuel in March! A warm welcome to Theresa and Kim! We are church together!



Everyone who participates at Immanuel is a part of our community of faith. **All of you matter and your participation in the life of our congregation makes a difference!** As per our congregational constitution, membership is required to vote at congregational meetings and serve in leadership roles. Being a member is a way of formally acknowledging your partnership in the Gospel at Immanuel. If you are interested in membership please contact Pastor Bree or the church office at 815-625-3575.

Mark Your Calendars for Relay For Life on June 13!



People of Immanuel, their family and friends are invited to become members of the *Spirit of Immanuel Relay For Life team!* The 31st annual event is at **Westwood Sports Complex in Sterling on Saturday,**

June 13 from 4 - 9:30 p.m. Relay For Life is about celebrating survivors, honoring and remembering those lost to cancer, and Fighting Back against this cancer which is not fussy about who it attacks - male or female, younger or older, whatever nationality or heritage. Information will be shared through the weekly bulletin. **For questions, about raising money for the American Cancer Society through Relay for Life please contact Service Ministry Council member, Pam Shoffner or Kelly Schaefer or Deb Cervantes.**

Registration of survivors to walk the first lap, receive a free Survivor T shirt, and a free food item after the opening lap and team members as well may register online at www.relayforlife.org/saukvalleyil or call 1- 800-ACS-2345.

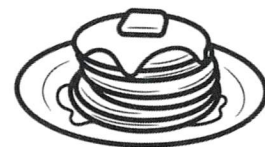


An all you can eat Pancake Breakfast to support Self Help is on Saturday, April 11th from 7 a.m. - Noon

at Self Help Enterprises,
(2300 W. LeFevre Road, Sterling)

Free Will Donations Received

There will be a Bake Sale, Craft & Vendor Show, and a 50/50 Raffle too!



HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Holy Week — St. John's Lutheran Church

Palm Sunday worship at 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, & Good Friday services at

6:30 p.m. **Easter Sunday** worship service is 9:30 a.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church— Palm Sunday, March 29 worship is 9:00 a.m.

Good Friday, April 3. Gather for supper in the fellowship hall at 5:30 p.m. as we recognize the last supper of Jesus with His disciples. Following our meal together, we will move to the sanctuary for a Good Friday Tenebrae service (beginning about 6:30 p.m.). Gabby will have children's activity during worship.

Easter Sunday – 9:00 a.m. with Easter egg hunt following worship

Rock River Hospice and Home (RRH&H) is offering

**“Growing Through Grief” a support group the
2nd Monday of every month from 5-6:30 p.m.**



RRH&H's Social Worker and Bereavement Coordinator will guide this journey with care and understanding. Come and share experiences in a safe, supportive space. Come and connect with others who understand. Come and find healing and hope together. You don't have to face grief alone. Join this monthly gathering and find support, connection and healing. For more information please contact Kaitlyn at 815-625-3858 or kaitlynk@hospicerockriver.org

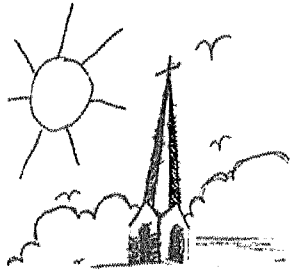


Thanks be to God for Sam Hyland! Sam, who is long-time member, leader and follower of Jesus moved to Colorado at the end of March. We celebrated Sam with a special coffee hour hosted by Deb & Louie Gonzalez and Betty Clementz on March 22. May God guide and bless Sam Hyland!

People of Immanuel—A BIG THANK

YOU for the send off! I appreciate all of your support! My new address is 2210 Main Street, Apt. 134, Longmont CO 80501. I give thanks for you all! —Sam Hyland

**THANK
YOU!**



**Message from the Treasurer to the
Congregation of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church**

“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good works.” (2 Corinthians 9:8)

In January 2023, the Church Council brought forth a fund-raising effort with the sole purpose of establishing a reserved fund that would be in place to cover the cost of roof repairs or roof replacement in the future. At the time that the account was initiated, we had \$53,000.00 in past contributions over the years and opened a reserve account which sole purpose is for roof repair and or replacement. As of this writing, we do not know when this money will be required to replace the roof, best guess some 5-7 years if not sooner. Several years ago, a rough estimated cost was estimated at \$75,000 to \$85,000.

Fellow Beloved Members of our Church Family-- I am pleased to tell you, that we have surpassed the \$100,000 giving level, and our account currently stands at \$103,172.00. Thank you and thanks be to God for you! Your giving, service and prayer communicates faith. Generosity in the Bible is defined by sacrificial giving, often highlighted by those with little giving of all they have.

On behalf of the Church Council and Pastor Bree, we want to thank everyone who has contributed to this Fund. Your partnership in the Gospel matters! As communicated in Numbers 6:24, “May the Good Lord Bless you and keep you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.”

If you have any questions about the roof fund or our congregational finances, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. My contact info is on p. 14 with the rest of the Congregational Council’s contact info.

Gratefully—Bill Wescott, Treasurer

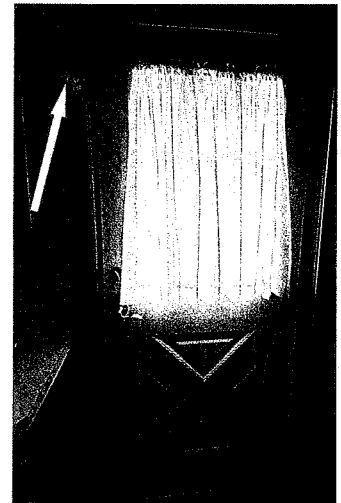


Many thanks to ALL who have served as Door Managers and Greeters in the past! This month we are launching weekly sign ups for these opportunities allowing more people the opportunity to serve! The **Door Manager** **staffs the glass door**, holding it open for folks as they enter and on occasion assisting people as they journey to or from their vehicle. **Greeters serve at the top**

of the stairs welcoming people to worship and fielding any questions visitors may have (location of the rest room, baby changing table, etc.) We ask that Door Managers and Greeters arrive by 8:30 a.m. and serve until worship begins at 9 a.m. These vital servants help others feel welcome to worship with us at Immanuel! **Please prayerfully consider serving as a Door Manager or Greeter and sign up for the week(s) of your choosing on the table outside the church office.**

We now have a locking dumpster in the alley behind Immanuel. Throughout February and early March, there was an increase in the amount of dumping and rummaging through our dumpster. Special thanks to Jerry for his good communication on these incidents. On March 2, at Pastor Bree's and the Support Ministry Team's direction, Jill updated the contract with Republic Services to a locking dumpster. **The dumpster was delivered on March 11 and Jerry made extra keys. There is one dumpster key on the nail by the kitchen door, (pictured to the right).** In addition, Jerry has a key, the Support Ministry Team has keys, Pastor Bree has one and the Office has one. We are hoping this change will decrease the dumpster issues. If you have any questions or concerns please speak with Pastor Bree or a Council Member (contact info is on p. 14). Thanks!

**What's
Going
On?**



**For this is the original message we heard:
we should love each other.**

-1 JOHN 3:11



NOURISHING VOCATION

WITH CHILDREN



THE LUTHERAN CENTER
FOR FAITH, VALUES, AND COMMUNITY

Immanuel has been accepted into the Wonders of Worship program that is sponsored through the Nourishing Vocation with Children program sustained by grants from the Lilly Foundation out of The Lutheran Center at St. Olaf College.

This program involves a monthly Zoom meeting for Pastor Bree and tons of FREE tools for sharing the gospel with people of all ages in worship. The hope is to incorporate "child-attentive, young family focused, intergenerational experiences of worship and prayer." **Each week young people will receive a trading card communicating what we are exploring.** A special canvas print of "The Wonders of Worship," painted by Vonda Drees is a part of our worship space. May we all grow in God through the Wonders of Worship!



Support Immanuel Youth while dining at Culver's on April 28 from 5-8 p.m.!!!

Immanuel Youth will deliver your meals through a fundraiser at Culver's on April 28. The proceeds

support Immanuel Youth Opportunities. The amount of sales is tied to the % of donation that Culver's is able to make. For example: A normal Tuesday will pay out 10% of sales. If they see an increase in sales over their average Tuesday we could receive up to 20% of sales. (Which is what happened last time!) **Come and dine at Culver's in Rock Falls (1901 Harley-Davidson Dr., Rock Falls) from 5 - 8 p.m.,!** There will be a tip jar out on front counter to support LYO. Culver's will present a check by about 8:15 p.m. Thanks in advance for your support. Hope to see you there! Thanks to Culver's for their support!

Sunday School (S. S.) is offered weekly from 10:15 –11 a.m. on Sunday!
We have a Pre-School-1st grade class that meets downstairs led by Danyelle Robinson. Lori Attig is leading music for this age group as well! 2nd-6th grade class is led by Jennifer Morgan with a variety of assistants. No Sunday school on Easter Sunday, April 5th. Come and grow in God with us!

NOW is the time to sign up for summer camp!
Learn more and register at <https://lomc.org/>



It is the desire of the whole LOMC community of churches and individuals that **no child is ever denied an amazing camp experience due to a family's financial constraints.** Through the help of many generous donors, LOMC has campership funds available for those in need. Please contact LOMC to learn more at 815-732-2220 or email registrations@lomc.org. LOMC wants to make sure your child has this safe, uplifting, adventurous life experience every year!



NOW is the time to make plans to join in CommUNITY VBS this summer, July 12-16! Consider having your grandkids or extended family coming to visit during that time and join us for VBS too!

CommUNITY VBS is offered for Pre-School-5th graders July 12-16 from 5:30- 8 p.m. at Bethel Reformed Church (230 E. 23rd St., Sterling). Festivities include a free supper, Bible exploration, music, games, science and arts & crafts!

Guard your calendars and plan to volunteer for this life-shaping week too! *If you would like to be on the CommUNITY VBS planning team, the next meeting is on Thursday, April 9 at 4 p.m. at Bethel.*

PLEASE plan to join us or volunteer for CommUNITY VBS July 12-16!



Tri Church Youth (6th - 12th graders) are serving God and others by Packing Buddy Bags on Wednesday, April 1 from 7 - 8 p.m. at the Wesley United Methodist Church (2200 16th Avenue). Please meet us at Wesley United Methodist. Come and serve with us!



6th-8th Graders: Tri Church Confirmation is on April 19 at St. Paul from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch is provided. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Bree at pastorimmanuelrf@gmail.com.

The schedule for the rest of the school year:

*April 1, 2026; 7 p.m. 6-12th graders pack Buddy Bags at Wesley UMC

May 3, 2026 at Immanuel (Wrap-up party & review)

*May 13, 2026; 7 p.m. 6-12th graders pack Buddy Bags at Wesley UMC



OUR GRADUATES

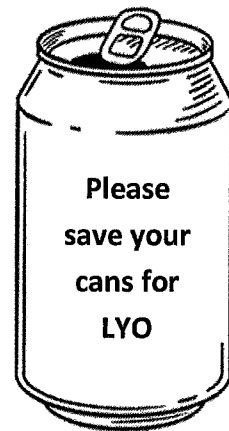
We'd Love to Honor Our Graduates!

Do you have an 8th grader, high school, college or vocational graduate in your household? **Please let the church office** know about them by **April 30**; as Immanuel would like to celebrate their achievement during worship. The families of our High School Seniors have chosen **Sunday, May 24**. Please check your email, the bulletin and newsletter for updates. Thank You!

Thank you everybody for all the aluminum cans you brought to us! *Money raised from these donations support Immanuel Lutheran Youth ministries. You are most welcome to save and bring your bagged uncrushed aluminum beverage cans by Immanuel and place them in the entryway.*

Thanks
for your
participation

Immense thanks to Gerald Foskitt for all his service and leadership making this possible!



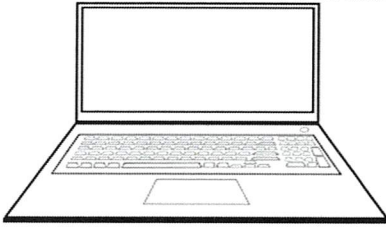
You are an important part of the body of Christ!

Each of you matter to God, to our congregation and community! Pastor Bree and the Church Council are here to serve alongside you. You are welcome to contact Pastor Bree and Church Council members as needed.

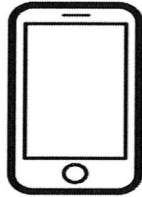
| Council Contact Information | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Pastor | Pastor Bree Truax 360-989-4906 pastorimmanuelrf@gmail.com | | | |
| Executive Board | President Nick Dirks 815-441-4599 nickwdirks@gmail.com | Vice President Deb Keaschall 815-718-5237 debkeaschall@gmail.com | Secretary Ronda Borgmann 815-622-9306 Rondaborgmann@gmail.com | Treasurer Bill Wescott 815-590-6270 paramedic61071@yahoo.com |
| Congregational Life Ministry | Deb Keaschall 815-718-5237 debkeaschall@gmail.com | Deb Cervantes 815-535-8242 deb dawnhend@comcast.net | | |
| Faith Formation Ministry | Scott Attig 815-303-9642 attig80@yahoo.com | Alex Attig 815-303-3382 alexattig@gmail.com | | |
| Service Ministry | Pam Shoffner 815-716-0190 mccrash2007@hotmail.com | <i>Please keep our Council Members and Pastor Bree in your prayers.</i> | | |
| Support Ministry | Marty Schaefer 815-441-5129 mscha466@gmail.com | Scott Attig 815-303-9642 attig80@yahoo.com | | |
| Hospitality Ministry | Sheryl Wagner 815-252-7923 dashwagner@gmail.com | Shannon Schutz 815-590-6150 sschutz2000@gmail.com | | |
| Worship Ministry | Ronda Borgmann 815-622-9306 Rondaborgmann@gmail.com | Kelly Schaefer 815-441-7614 kellyschaefer66@gmail.com | | |

THANK YOU for supporting the mission and ministry of Immanuel through your prayers, service and giving! You make a difference!

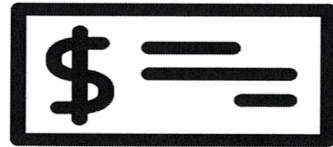
THANKS for supporting the mission & ministry of Immanuel! Your partnership in the Gospel makes an immense difference! We have THREE secure ways for you to give.



ONLINE
Immanuelrockfalls.org



MOBILE
Tithe.ly app



IN PERSON
Cash or check

All donations will be included on your yearly giving statement. Thank you for your prayers, service & giving!

A HUGE THANK YOU

to the local businesses below who are supporting the Messenger!

Thanks be to God for your generosity! If you own a local business and would like to be a part of the team of businesses that help make the Messenger possible, please contact the church office.

Moeller, Myers

**& ASSOCIATES PC
Counseling & Consulting**

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MINISTERS: MEMBERS OF IMMANUEL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

Immanuel Office Phone: 815-625-3575 Fax: 815-625-3702
Office Administrator - Jill Leesman office@immanuelrockfalls.org
Custodian - Jerry Adams
Organists & Music Directors - Virginia Schumaker & Lori Attig
Sunday School Superintendent - Jennifer Morgan
Pastor Bree Truax Cell: 360-989-4906 pastorimmanuelrf@gmail.com

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Website: immanuelrockfalls.org
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

In-Person Worship - Sundays at 9 a.m.

Sunday School at 10:15 - 11:00 a.m.

Facebook: Immanuel Ev. Lutheran, www.facebook.com/ImmanuelRockFalls/

Phone-in worship - available toll free anytime 1-888-975-5536